



LEGAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE
ROYAL COURT OF NINEVEH
PART I

TIGLATH-PILESER III THROUGH
ESARHADDON

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The Chronological Structure of the Corpus

The chronological structure of the Nineveh legal corpus, as recovered from the dated tablets, is illustrated in Table I. As can be seen, the corpus covers the reigns of eight successive kings (the 'postcanonical' texts including, besides texts from the latter part of Assurbanipal's reign, also ones from the reigns of his sons Aššur-etel-ilani and Sin-šarru-iškun) and spans a period of some 135 years, from 747 B.C. down to the fall of Nineveh (612 B.C.). This long period of time is not at all, however, evenly covered by the corpus. Only about 7% of the texts date from the reigns of the first three kings, a period of 42 years (some 30% of the total time range of the corpus), and there are only two isolated texts from the reign of Shalmaneser V. Only from year 702 on do the numbers of texts per year gradually start to increase (Table II). This is clearly related to the construction history of the SW Palace of Sennacherib (which appears to have been habitable from 703 on even though the building in its entirety was not finished until 694), and strongly supports the conclusion drawn above that the majority of the texts derive from this palace.

TABLE I. *The Chronological Structure of the Nineveh Legal Corpus*

| Reign | number of texts | % of whole corpus | % of datable texts |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Tiglath-Pileser III | 11 | 1.4 | 2.3 |
| Shalmaneser V | 2 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Sargon II | 21 | 2.6 | 4.3 |
| Sennacherib | 162 | 20.1 | 32.5 |
| Esarhaddon | 110 | 13.6 | 22.6 |
| Assurbanipal (Pt. I) | 44 | 5.5 | 9.0 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total (Pt. I) | 350 | 43.5 | 71.1 |
| Assurbanipal (Pt. II) | 66 | 8.2 | 13.5 |
| Assurbanipal Total | (110) | (13.6) | (22.6) |
| Post-canonical Texts | 76 | 9.5 | 15.4 |
| Undatable with Known Central Person ... | 54 | 6.7 | |
| Undatable with Unknown Central Person . | 258 | 32.1 | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total (Pt. II) | 454 | 56.5 | 28.9 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 804 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

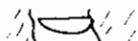
TABLE II. *The Chronological Distribution of Datable Legal Texts from Nineveh*

| Year | Text no. |
|-------|--|
| 747 | 17 |
| 742 | 1 |
| 739 | 18 |
| 737 | 2 |
| 734 | 19, 21 |
| 729 | 5, 22 |
| <hr/> | |
| 727 | 23 |
| 723 | 24 |
| <hr/> | |
| 717 | 10, 25 |
| 716 | — |
| 715 | 12 |
| 714 | — |
| 713 | 6 |
| 712 | — |
| 711 | 26 |
| 710 | 13, 28, 29, 30 |
| 709 | 31, 34 |
| 708 | — |
| 707 | 32 |
| 706 | 33 |
| 705 | — |
| <hr/> | |
| 704 | 60 |
| 703 | — |
| 702 | 113, 114, 115 |
| 701 | — |
| 700 | 35, 61, 116, 117 |
| 699 | 119, 120 |
| 698 | 100, 102, 118, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125 |
| 697 | 126, 127 |
| 696 | 62, 128, 129, 130 |
| 695 | 36, 63, 131, 132 |
| 694 | 37, 38, 39, 81, 83, 84, 103, 133, 134, 135, 136 |
| 693 | 40, 41, 64, 97, 137, 138, 139 |
| 692 | 42, 65, 85, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146 |
| 691 | — |
| 690 | 104, 105, 147, 148 |
| 689 | 149 |
| 688 | 66, 67, 68, 69, 106, 150 |
| 687 | 88, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160 |
| 686 | 70, 89, 107, 161, 162, 163, 164, 166, 167, 168, 169 |
| 685 | 71, 72, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175 |
| 684 | 43, 44, 59, 73, 74, 177 |
| 683 | 90, 108, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 186 |
| 682 | 45, 75, 76, 77, 98, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192 |
| 681 | 46, 47, 91, 110, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197 |
| <hr/> | |
| 680 | 48, 111, 201, 202, 203, 221, 222, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264 |
| 679 | 204, 206, 223, 224, 247, 265, 268, 269, 270 |
| 678 | 207, 208, 255, 271 |
| 677 | 225, 267, 272 |
| 676 | 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 226, 239, 240, 273, 274 |
| 675 | 227, 229, 230, 232, 275, 276 |
| 674 | 233, 241, 242, 243, 252, 277, 278, 279 |
| 673 | 216, 280, 281 |
| 672 | 234, 244, 245, 282, 283 |
| 671 | 235, 284, 296, 297, 298, 299 |
| 670 | 236, 237, 286, 287, 289, 290, 291, 300, 301, 302, 303 |
| 669 | 292, 293, 304, 305, 306 |
| <hr/> | |
| 668 | 307, 308 |
| 667 | 309, 310 |
| 666 | 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317 |
| 665 | 318, 319 |
| 664 | 320, 321, 323, 324 |
| 663 | 325, 327, 328 |
| 660 | 329, 330, 331 |

1. Mušallim-Issar Purchases Slaves (742-XI-26)

K 422

- 1 [ku-um NA₄-KIŠIB-šú] šu-bar-šú [iš-kun]
2 [šu-bar^mx-x]-i [EN LÚ SUM¹]



- 3 [x x x x x x] x r [a¹ x x x]
4 [x x x x x x x x x x] a a [x x]
5 [x x x x x x x] 'x x' [x x] di¹
6 [x x x x x x x x] 'x' ha 'x'
7 [x x x x x x x x x x LÚ.t] ur-ta-ni
8 [x x x x x x x x x x x x]-ir—PAB
9 [x x x x x x x x x x x x]—15
10 [x x x x x x x x x x x x x x]—SAG¹
11 [x x x x x x x x x x x x x]—ú¹-kín
12 [x x x x x x x x x x x x x]—SUM-in-šú
13 [x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x]
14 [x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x]-šú
15 [x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x h]u
Rev. lines 1 to 4 entirely broken away
5 i-[x x x x x x x x]-ni
6 nu-[x x x x x x x x x x]-ni
7 la ú-ša man-nu ša [x M]A.NA KUG.UD
8 a-na^mmu-šal-lim—^d*INNIN¹ SUM-nu-ni
9 LÚ a-di UN.MEŠ-šú ú-še-ša

- 10 IGI^msi-pa-ra-nu LÚ.ša-rip—tuh-ši-e
11 [IGI] 'mŠÁ¹—URU-a-a IGI^maš-šur—DI¹—PAB.
MEŠ
12 [LÚ*.mu]-kil—KUŠ.PA.MEŠ IGI^md30—AŠ LÚ.
3.U₅¹
13 [IGI^m]na'-ši-i IGI^mbi-hi-i
14 [IGI^m]m-ma-ni—aš-šur¹ IGI^mia-a-a
15 [PAB 8 IGI].MEŠ URU.DU₆¹—^dMAŠ-a-a
16 [IGI^maš]-šur—AŠ—PAB.MEŠ ša URU.LÚ. SAG.
MEŠ
17 [PAB 9] IGI.MEŠ LÚ.ARAD.MEŠ ša LÚ.
[GAL]—SA[G]¹
18 [IGI^m]na-di-i LÚ.A.BA ša-bi[t IM]

ADD 75

¹ [Instead of his seal he impressed] his fingernail.

² [Fingernail of ...]i, [owner of the man being sold].

(fingernail impressions)

(Break)

^{r.6} [If he does not pay], he shall not come out. Whoever pays [x m]inas of silver to Mušallim-Issar, shall redeem the man together with his people.

¹⁰ Witness Sipranu, tanner of coloured leather.

¹¹ [Witness] Libbalayu. Witness Aššur-šal-lim-ahhe, [ch]ariot driver.

¹² Witness Sin-iddina, 'third man.'

¹³ [Witness] Našî. Witness Bihî.

¹⁴ [Witness I]mmani-Aššur. Witness Yaya.

¹⁵ [A total of 8 witnesses] from Til-Inurta.

¹⁶ [Witness Aš]šur-nadin-ahhe, from Eunuch Town.

¹⁷ [In all 9] witnesses, servants of the [chief] eunuch.

¹⁸ [Witness] Nadî, scribe, keep[er of the contract].

¹ Previous editions: AR 652. NALK 184. Collations: Assur 2/5. ^{r.15} DU₆ confirmed. ^{r.17} LÚ in LÚ.ARAD.MEŠ was inadvertently omitted in NALK.

MUŠALLIM-ISSAR

19 [ITI.Z]ÍZ UD-26-KAM¹ *lim-m[u]*
 20 [^múP]A¹—¹KALAG¹-*in-an-ni* LÚ.tur-[*ta-nu*]
 21e ¹*ina tar-ši¹* ^m*tukul-ti—A—¹É¹*.[ŠÁR.RA]
 22e [LUGAL KUR—*aš-šur.KI*]

¹⁹ [Month She]bat (XI), 26th day, epo[nym]
 year of [Na]bû-da' inanni, commander-in-
 [chief], in the reign of Tiglath-Pile[ser (III),
 king of Ašsyria].

24. A Fragmentary Sale of Land (723)

K 407

- 1 *ku-um* NA₄.¹KIŠIB¹-[šú-nu šu-pur-šú-nu iš-
ku-nu]
2 *šu-pur* ^mAD—x[x x x]
3 *šu-pur* ^mAD—¹SU¹ [EN A.ŠÀ SUM-ni]



- 4 [É] 3 ANŠE A.ŠÀ.GA *ina* URU.[x x x x]
5 [SU]HUR *um-me ša* URU.tu¹-x[x x]
6 [SU]HUR A.ŠÀ šú ^mARAD—^d[x x x]
7 [SUH]UR A.ŠÀ ša ^mGIR².2²—[x x x]
8 [x x x x] ¹LÚ*¹.tur-[tan x x x x]
rest broken away

Rev. beginning broken away

- 1' [IGI ^mx x x]-šú IGI [^mx x x x x]
2' [IGI ^mdP]A¹—MU—PAB [x x x]
blank space of two lines
3' [ITLx] UD-22-KAM *lim-m[u]*
4' [^mDI—ma-nu—MAŠ MAN [KUR—aš-šur.KI]

ADD 395

¹ Instead of [their] seals [they impressed their fingernails].

² Fingernail of Abu-..., fingernail of Abu-eriba, [owners of the land being sold].

(fingernail impressions)

⁴ [An estate of] 3 hectares of land in the town of [..., adjoining the *side road* of Tu-..., the field of Urda-..., (and) the field of Šep-..., *the ... of* the commander-[in-chief] (Break)

^{1,1} [Witness ...]šu. Witness [NN].

² [Witness Na]bû-šumu-ušur, [...].

³ [Month ...], 22nd day, epo[nym] year of Shalmaneser (V), king of [Assyria].

210. Mannu-ki-Arbail Buys a House (676-I-24)

83-1-18,337

- 1 NA₄.KIŠIB ^mše-li-pi
2 EN É ta-da-ni



- 3 É ep-[šú a-di GIŠ.ÜR].MEŠ-šú a-^rdi¹ [GIŠ].
^rIG¹.MEŠ-šú
 4 me-šil a[*d-ri x x x x*] A.QAR URU.^rzi¹-da-da
 5 tak'-pi-[*x x x ina g*]i-mir-^rti¹-šá
 6 SUHUR É [^mU²].U¹-iq-bi
 7 SUHUR [É ^mx x]-mu-e-ri
 8 ú-[piš-ma.^mman-nu]-ki-URU.arba-íl
 9 [TA* IGI ^mše]-li-pi
 10 [ina ŠĀ x MA.NA] KUG.UD
 11 [ša URU.gar-ga-mis i]l^r-qi kas-pu
 12 [gam-mur ta-din] É za-rip
 13 [laq-qi tu-a-ru d]e-nu DUG₄.^rDUG₄¹
 14 [la-ás-šú man-nu ša ina] ^rur¹-[kiš]
 break of 2 lines
 e.17 [TA*] ^mman-nu-k[i-URU.arba-íl]
 18 ^rú¹ DUMU.MEŠ-šú ub-t[a-u-ni]
 19 2^r MA.NA KUG.UD 2 MA.[NA KUG.GI]
 r.1 ina ^diŠ.TAR a-ši-pa^r URU.arba-íl S[UM¹-an]

ADD-330

¹ Seal of Šelepū, owner of the house being sold.

(cylinder seal impression)

³ A bui[It] house [with] its [beams] and doors, a half of a thr[eshing floor ... in] the irrigated land (of) the town of Zidada, a ...[... in] its entirety, adjoining the house [of *Da*]di-iqbi and [the house of ...]mu-eri —

⁸ [Mann]u-ki-Arbail has [contracted and boug]ht it [from Še]lepu [for x minas] of silver (by the mina) [of Carchemish].

¹¹ The money [is paid completely]. The house is purchased [and acquired. Any revocation, law]suit, or litigation is void.

¹⁴ [Whoever in] the fut[ure, at any time, lodges a complaint, whether Šelepū or his sons], and se[eks a lawsuit or litigation against] Mannu-k[i-Arbail] and his sons, shall [pay] two minas of silver (and) two

209 Previous edition: AR 577.

210 Previous editions: AR 195, NALK 156. Collations: Assur 2/5. ⁴ See coll. ^{r.3} The tablet has *i-la-qi*, as

2 *kas-pu ina* 10.MEŠ-*te ina* EN.MEŠ-šú ú-
[GUR]

3 *ina de-ni-šú* DUG₄.DUG₄ *la i-la-qi*
4 *de-e-šú*¹ DI.KUD *la i-šá-mu-u*

5 IGI ^mGÌR.2—15 LÚ*.A.BA

6 IGI ^{md}PA—MU—AŠ LÚ*.A.BA

7 IGI ^mki-šir—15 LÚ*.3.U₅

8 ša LÚ*.GAL—KAŠ.LUL

9 IGI ^mNUMUN—^d15

10 IGI ^mman-nu—ki—PAB.MEŠ LÚ*.ra-ka-su

11 IGI ^mEN—BĀD

12 IGI ^maš-šur—MAN—PAB LÚ*.A.BA

13 IGI ^{md}ŠÚ—SU

14 IGI ^msu-hu-ra-mu-u LÚ*.DAM.QAR ša¹
[DUMU—MAN¹]

15 IGI ^mman-nu—k[i]—AD LÚ*.ra-ka-su ša
LÚ*.GAL—[SAG¹]

16 ITI.BARAG UD-24-KAM

17 *lim-mu* ^mba-an-ba-a LÚ*.SUKKAL 2-u

18 *ina tar-ši* ^maš-šur—PAB—AŠ MAN KUR—*aš-šur*

min[as of gold] to Ištar residing in Arbela, and shall [return] the silver tenfold to its owners.

r.4 He shall contest in his lawsuit and not succeed. The judge shall not heed his case.

r.5 Witness Šep-Issar, scribe.

6 Witness Nabû-šumu-iddina, scribe.

7 Witness Kišir-Issar, 'third man' of the chief cupbearer.

9 Witness Zar-Issar.

10 Witness Mannu-ki-ahhe, *conscript*.

11 Witness Bel-duri.

12 Witness Aššur-šarru-ušur, scribe.

13 Witness Marduk-eriba.

14 Witness Suhuramû, merchant of the crown prince.

15 Witness Mannu-ki-abi, *conscript* of the chief eunuch.

16 Month Nisan (I), 24th day, eponym year of Banbâ, the second vizier, in the reign of Esarhaddon, king of Assyria.

245. Dannaya Takes 210 Hectares of Land for a Silver Debt (672-XII-4)

K 349

- 1 [NA₄.KIŠIB m_{x-x}]x—'DÙG'.GA¹ LÚ*.2-'r'¹
 2 [š]a URU.ra-ša-pa



- 3 [EN] UN.MEŠ A.ŠÀ.GA ta-'da'¹-an
 4 'É'¹ 2-me A.ŠÀ.GA
 5 ina 'URU'.qu-ba-a-te
 6 [SUH]UR URU.til—ra-ha-ia-te

ADD 64

- ¹ [Seal of ...]-ṭaba, deputy (governor) [o]f Rašappa,
-

(three stamp seals)

- ³ [owner] of the people and land being sold.
⁴ An estate of 200 (hectares of) land [in] the town of Qubate, [adjoin]ing the towns of

244 Previous editions: AR 486, NALK 89; → KB 4 (1896) 128-131; 3R 49,5 (copy). ^{r.4} There is no šá MAN (NALK) at the end of the line. ^{r.10} Tablet m^dPA-EN-AŠ, scribal error.

245 Previous editions: AR 152, NALK 90. Collations: Assur 2/5.

7 [S]UHUR URU.É—^dra-man-nu
 8 SUHUR URU.É—LÚ* šá—UGU—hi—URU
 9 'SUHUR' URU.BÀD—^dna-na-a
 10 ^mDÜG.GA—ri-gi-ma-tú—^dIM
 11 MÍ-šú 2 MÍ.TUR.MEŠ-šú
 12 ^mPA—MAN—DINGIR.MEŠ MÍ-šú
 13 2 GUD.NITÁ 10 ANŠE ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ a-ar-
 šú
 e.14 ina ku-¹mu¹ 15 MA.NA 'KUG.UD'
 15 ina 1 MA.[NA-e] 'ša URU¹.gar-ga-[mis]
 r.1 ina IGI ^mdan¹an-na¹-a
 2 a-na ší'-par¹-ti
 3 šá'-ki'-an¹ man-nu¹
 4 š[a' KUG.UD.MEŠ] š-še-ra-ha-an-ni
 5 [UN.MEŠ A.Š]À.GA
 6 'ú-še¹-ši
 7 [IG]I ^mPA—še-zib
 8 [IG]I ^mda-ru-ra-a
 9 [IG]I ^mha-ra—MAN¹
 10 [IG]I ^mman-nu—ki—PAB.MEŠ
 11 IGI ^mha-ha-a-si-te-ma¹
 12 'IGI¹ ^mza-¹ib¹-da-a¹-ni
 13 ITI.ŠE UD-4-KÂM
 14 lim-(me) ^mPA—U—PAB
 15 ki-šir ^maš-šur—PAB.MEŠ—AŠ
 16 [MAN] 'KUR¹—aš-šur

Til-rahayate, Bit-Ramannu, Bit-ša-muhhi-
 ali, and Dur-Nanâ; Ṭaba-rigimatu-Adad, his
 wife and two girls of his; Nabû-šar-ilani and
 his wife; 2 oxen; (and) 10 hectares of sown
 field,

14 are placed as a pledge at the disposal of
 Dannaya in lieu of 15 minas of silver by the
 mi[na o]f Carche[mish].

r.3 Whoever[r] brings the [silver] shall re-
 deem the [people and the lan]d.

7 [Wit]ness Nabû-šezib.

8 [Wit]ness Darurâ.

9 [Wit]ness Hara-Dadi.

10 [Wit]ness Mannu-ki-ahhe.

11 Witness Habasitema.

12 Witness Zabdanu.

13 Month Adar (XII), 4th day, eponym
 year of Nabû-bel-ušur, *staff* of Esarhaddon,
 king of Assyria.

257. A Servant of a Prince Buys a Slave (680-I-10)

Ki 1904-10-9,189

- 1 'NA₄.KIŠIB¹ m^oPA—šal-li ŠEŠ-šú ša m^oha-za—
DINGIR
2 NA₄.KIŠIB MÍ.rí-šá-0'—AD-šá MÍ.NU.KÚŠ.Û
3 ša m^oha-za—DINGIR PAB 2 LÚ.MEŠ-e ARAD.
MEŠ-ni
4 ša GAŠAN—É ša DUMU—MAN EN LÚ SUM-ni



- 5 m^omar—su-ri ARAD-šú-nu
6 ša LÚ.MEŠ-e an-nu-te ú-piš-ma
7 m^oDINGIR—PAB ARAD ša DUMU—LUGAL URU.
il'-lat'-a-a
8 TA* pa-an LÚ.MEŠ-e an-nu-te
9 ina ŠÁ 1 MA.NA KUG.UD ina ma-né-e
10 ša URU.gar-ga-mis il-qí
11 kas-pu 'gam¹-mur ta-din LÚ šu-a-tú
12 za-rip la-qí tu-a-ru de-e-nu

- 13 DUG₄.DUG₄ la-áš-šú man-nu ša ina ur-kiš
14 ina ma-ti-ma i-za-qu-pa-a-'ni¹¹
15 lu-u m^oPA—šal-li lu-u MÍ.rí[i-šá-A]D-šá
16 lu-u 0' DUMU.'MEŠ¹-šú-nu lu-u P[AB.MEŠ-
šú-nu]
17 lu-u LÚ.GAR-nu-šú-nu lu-[u x x x x x x]
e.18 lu-u EN—il-ki-'šú¹-nu l[u-u x x x x x x]
r.1 'šá¹ TA* m^oDINGIR—PAB 'ú¹ [D]U[MU.MEŠ-
šú]
2 de-nu DUG₄.DUG₄ ub-'ta¹-[u-ni]
3 2 MA.NA KUG.UD e-šip SUM-'an¹
4 LÚ ú-še-aš ina de-ni-šú
5 DUG₄.DUG₄-ma la TI-qí

- 6 IGI m^oARAD—^dPA LÚ.MUŠEN.DÛ
7 IGI m^oAD—PAB LÚ.:
8 IGI m^ošal-mu—PAB.MEŠ LÚ.GIŠ.GIGIR
9 IGI m^oDI.KUD—kur-ba-il
10 LÚ.kal-la-bu
11 IGI m^oqu-qu-u-'a¹ LÚ.kal-la-bu
12 IGI m^oda-ú-li-i LÚ.:
13 IGI m^omi-nu—DÛ—DINGIR LÚ.GIŠ.GIGIR
blank space of one line¹
14 IGI m^odi-lil—^d15 LÚ.A.BA

ADD 1194

- ¹ Seal of Nabû-šalli, brother of Hazail,
² seal of Riša-abiša, widow of Hazail,
³ a total of 2 gentlemen, servants of the
lady of the house of the crown prince, owners
of the man being sold.

(stamp seal impressions)

⁵ Mar-suri, servant of these gentlemen —

⁷ Ilu-iššur, servant of the crown prince,
from the town of Illat, has contracted and
bought him from these gentlemen for one
mina of silver by the mina of Carchemish.

¹¹ The money is paid completely. That
man is purchased and acquired. Any revoca-
tion, lawsuit, or litigation is void.

¹³ Whoever in the future, at any time, lod-
ges a complaint, whether Nabû-šalli or R[iša-
a]biša, or their sons or br[others], or their
prefect, [...], labour-duty superior o[r ...],

r.1 and se[eks] a lawsuit or litigation
against Ilu-iššur and [his s]o[ns], shall pay
the double amount of two minas of silver to
redeem the man. He shall contest in his law-
suit and not succeed.

r.6 Witness Urda-Nabû, fowler.

7 Witness Abu-ušur, ditto.

8 Witness Šalmu-ahhe, horse trainer.

9 Witness Dayyan-Kurbail, *outrider*.11 Witness Ququ'a, *outrider*.

12 Witness Dauli, ditto.

13 Witness Minu-epuš-ili, horse trainer.

14 Witness Dilil-Issar, scribe, keeper of

257 Previous edition: NALK 111; → Postgate FNALD 10. Photo Cat. Suppl. Pl. 2. ³ See note on no. 264:4.
⁷ See coll. ^{1,22} ú-še-aš sic.

VARIA

15 DIB IM
 16 ITI.BARAG UD-10-KÁM
 17 *lim-mu* ^m*da-na-nu* LÚ.GAR.KUR URU.*man-*
ṣu.MEŠ
 18 *ina tar-iṣ* ^m*aš-šur—PAB—SUM-na* LUGAL
 KUR—*aš-šur.KI*
 19e *la-qi*

the tablet.

¹⁶ Month Nisan (I), 10th day, eponym year of Dananu, governor of Manṣuati.

¹⁸ Purchased in the reign of Esarhaddon, king of Ašsyria.